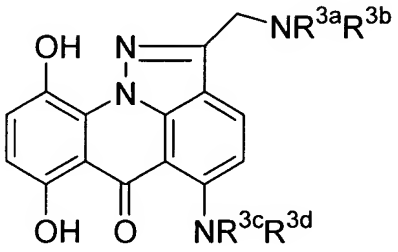
a.) Amendment to the Claims:

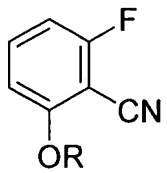
1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (V):



(V)

~~<wherein~~ wherein R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-Y^1$ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^1 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{4a}R^{4b}$ {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or $-(CH_2)_m-Y^2$ [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^2 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{5a}R^{5b}$ (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)], or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or $-CH((CH_2)_pOH)_2$ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5)~~> which comprises steps of~~, which comprises steps of:

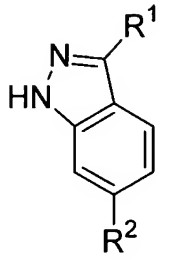
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



(I)

~~(wherein~~ wherein R represents lower ~~alkyl)~~ alkyl

in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):

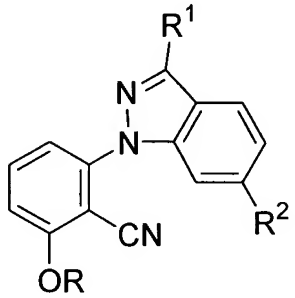


(II)

~~[wherein~~ wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted ~~aryl]~~ aryl

~~in the presence of a base~~

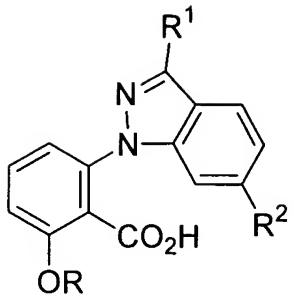
to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



(III)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~;

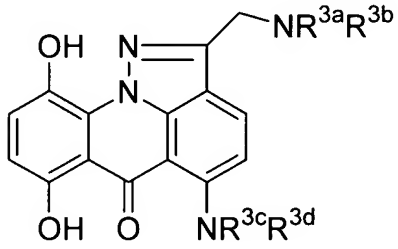
and hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



(IV)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (V):

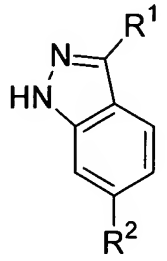


(V)

~~(wherein R3a, R3b, R3c and R3d have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-Y^1$ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^1 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{4a}R^{4b}$ {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or $-(CH_2)_m-Y^2$ [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^2 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{5a}R^{5b}$ (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)], or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or $-CH((CH_2)_pOH)_2$ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5), which comprises steps of:

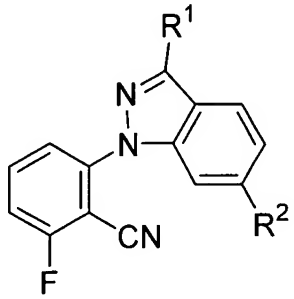
~~which comprises steps of~~

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



(II)

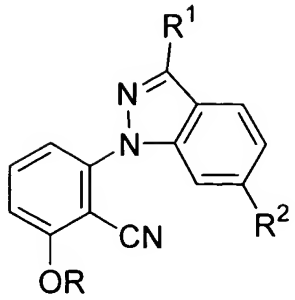
~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl in the presence of a base to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



(VI)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~;

converting the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI) into a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):

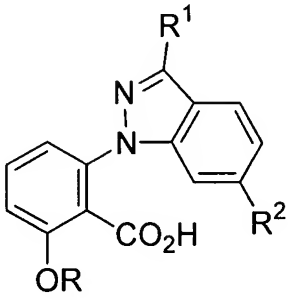


(III)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R represents lower alkyl;

and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



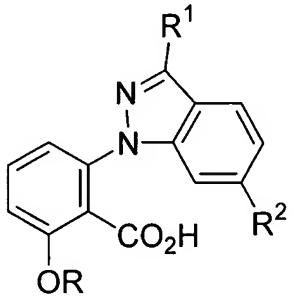
(IV)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~.

3. (Original) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R is methyl.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claims 1 or 2, wherein R^1 is lower alkyl; and R^2 is nitro or halogen.

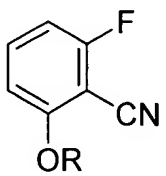
5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



(IV)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises ~~steps of~~ steps of:

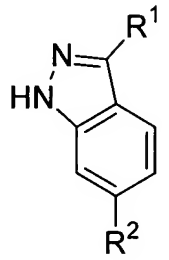
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



(I)

~~(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)~~

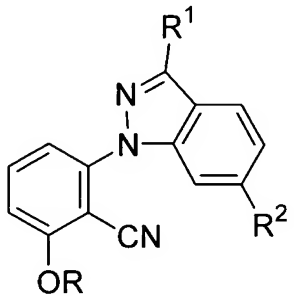
in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



(II)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) in the presence of a base~~

to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):

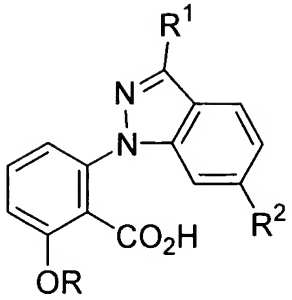


(III)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~; and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III).

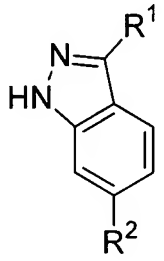
6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



(IV)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):

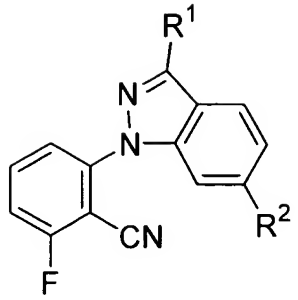


(II)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~

~~in the presence of a base~~

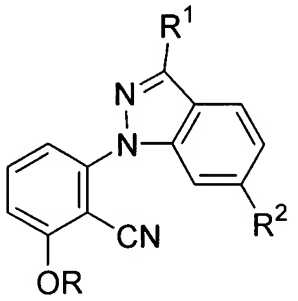
to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



(VI)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~;

converting the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI) into a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



(III)

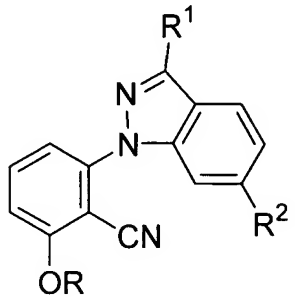
~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~; and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III).

7. (Original) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 5 or 6, wherein R is methyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claims 5 or 6, wherein R^1 is lower alkyl; and R^2 is nitro or halogen.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



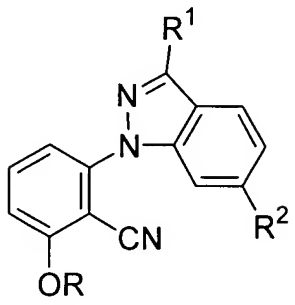
(III)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl,

or a salt thereof.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein R is methyl, or a salt thereof.

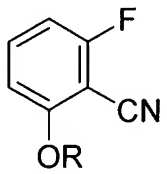
11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



(III)

~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

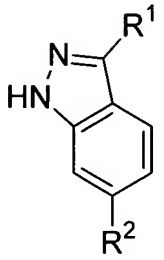
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



(I)

~~(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)~~

in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



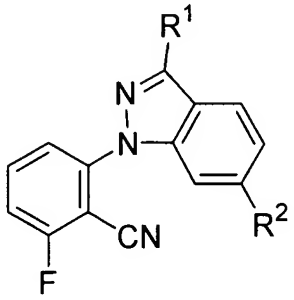
(II)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~

~~in the presence of a base~~.

12. (Original) The process according to claim 11, wherein R is methyl.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



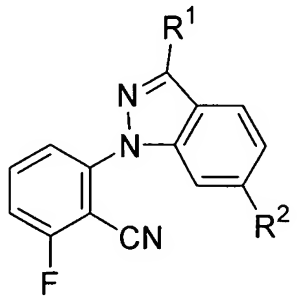
(VI)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl,

or a salt thereof.

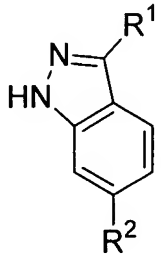
14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



(VI)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_2X$ (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or $-OC(=O)R^3$ (wherein R^3 represents lower alkyl); and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



(II)

~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~

~~in the presence of a base~~.

15. (New) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 3, wherein R^1 is lower alkyl; and R^2 is nitro or halogen.

16. (New) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 7, wherein R^1 is lower alkyl; and R^2 is nitro or halogen.